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Expectations from Budget 2019- Dr. BS Ajaikumar

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As a country, we need to substantially **increase our Healthcare budgets**. Our per person average healthcare spend is 85$ which is amongst the lowest if compared to other countries.

Ayushman Bharat is a positive step towards universal healthcare in India but it **needs to accommodate tertiary care** in its scheme of things. Under the scheme currently, tertiary healthcare service providers will be forced to cut cost at every level to cater to an Ayushman patients and the outcome might be affected.

World-class quality care can be extended by private hospitals uniformly all across to patients and we need the government to extend all-round support to private entities in order to achieve this. The upcoming budget should reflect a break-up of the benefits Ayushman Bharat extends to private entities as currently there are multiple restrictions to extend quality treatment to an Ayushman patient.

The **healthcare sector needs privatization** where implementation should be undertaken by private service providers to ensure that uniformity in quality healthcare is maintained. If the government plays a role of a monitoring agency, we will fare much better to deliver value based healthcare.

Healthcare service providers should **be mandated to publish outcomes to demonstrate the essence of quality and world-class healthcare**. It would also help us shape the future of healthcare system and deliver value based healthcare to patients.

Cancer can be defeated only when there is a change in behavior. Government should levy heavy taxes on components like cigarette and other sources of tobacco consumption and strike a strategy to help farmers with alternate model of beneficial agricultural practices.

Taxpayers money should be utilized efficiently towards key agendas in the country like subsidizing farmer loans. Government needs to make such efforts to develop the community right from the grassroots.